

# **RADIATIVE TRANSFER BASED SYNERGISTIC MODIS/MISR ALGORITHM**

## **FOR THE ESTIMATION OF GLOBAL LAI & FPAR**

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### **GOAL**

Develop and Implement a RT based Algorithm for

**Leaf Area Index (LAI)**

**Fraction of PAR absorbed by Vegetation (FPAR)**

Accuracy: **0.5 LAI & 0.1 FPAR**

Spatial Resolution: **1 km & 1 X 1 degree**

Temporal Frequency: **5 - 7 days & 1 month**

### **MAIN ALGORITHM**

**LOOK-UP TABLE METHOD** with ancilliary static data layers

- potential MODIS/MISR Synergy  
with MODIS-only flexibility

### **BACK-UP ALGORITHM**

**VEGETATION INDEX BASED**

Robust (always meets the minimum accuracy)

**DEFINITION PHASE**      **algorithm feasibility**

**EXECUTION PHASE**      **implementation & validation**

**radiative Transfer in Vegetation Media:** A horizontally heterogeneous vegetation canopy of p  
 $Z_C$  bounded by a flat and anisotropically reflecting soil surface is considered. Specifically, we  
 al solution to the following boundary value problem,

$$[\underline{\Omega} \cdot \vec{\nabla} + \sigma(\vec{r}, \underline{\Omega})]I(\vec{r}, \underline{\Omega}) = \int_{4\pi} d\underline{\Omega}' \sigma_s(\vec{r}, \underline{\Omega}' \rightarrow \underline{\Omega}) I(\vec{r}, \underline{\Omega}')$$

$$I(0, \vec{p}, \underline{\Omega}) = I_E \exp \left[ -\frac{\tau_A}{|\mu|} \right] \delta(\underline{\Omega} - \underline{\Omega}_o) + I_d(\underline{\Omega}) , \quad \mu < 0 ,$$

$$I(Z_C, \vec{p}, \underline{\Omega}) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{2\pi} d\underline{\Omega}' R_S(\vec{p}, \underline{\Omega}' \rightarrow \underline{\Omega}) |\mu'| I(Z_C, \vec{p}, \underline{\Omega}') , \quad \mu' < 0 , \quad \mu > 0 ,$$

**- discrete ordinates method**

quadrature in angle

finite difference scheme for spatial derivative

solution by iteration on the scattering integral & its acceleration

**- allows proper boundary conditions**

**- vertical & lateral heterogeneity**

**- includes hot spot effect & specular reflection from leaves**

**- mutual shadowing between crowns**

**- validated**

benchmark solutions

crop canopies

grasslands

shrublands

broadleaf and needle forests

Given:

surface spectral bidirectional reflectances

calibrated

atmosphere-corrected

Known:

illumination & viewing geometry

spectral bandwidths & instrument response functions

estimate LAI & FPAR

ANCILLIARY DATA LAYERS

BIOME TYPE

leaf optical properties & some structural variables

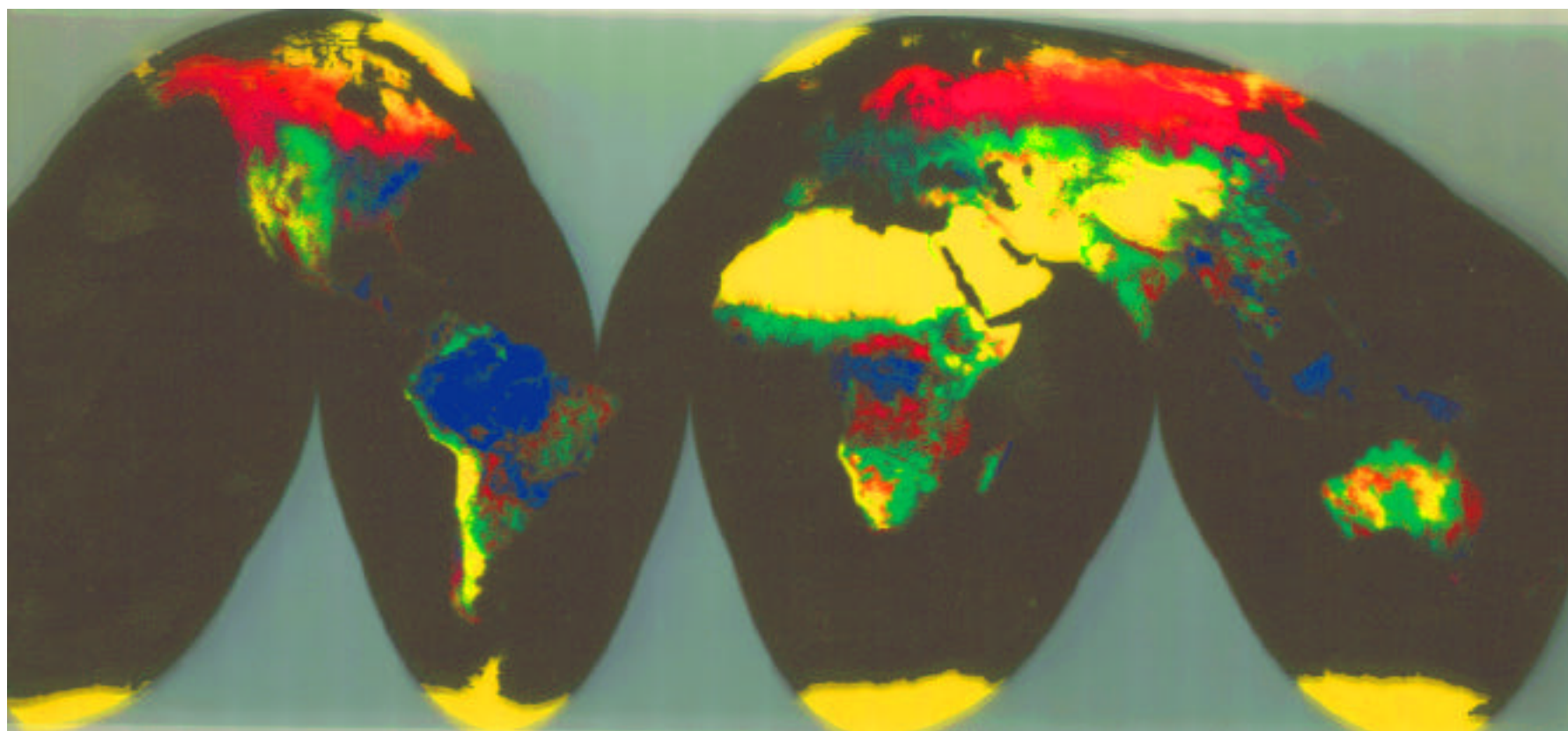
GROUND COVER

SOIL REFLECTANCE

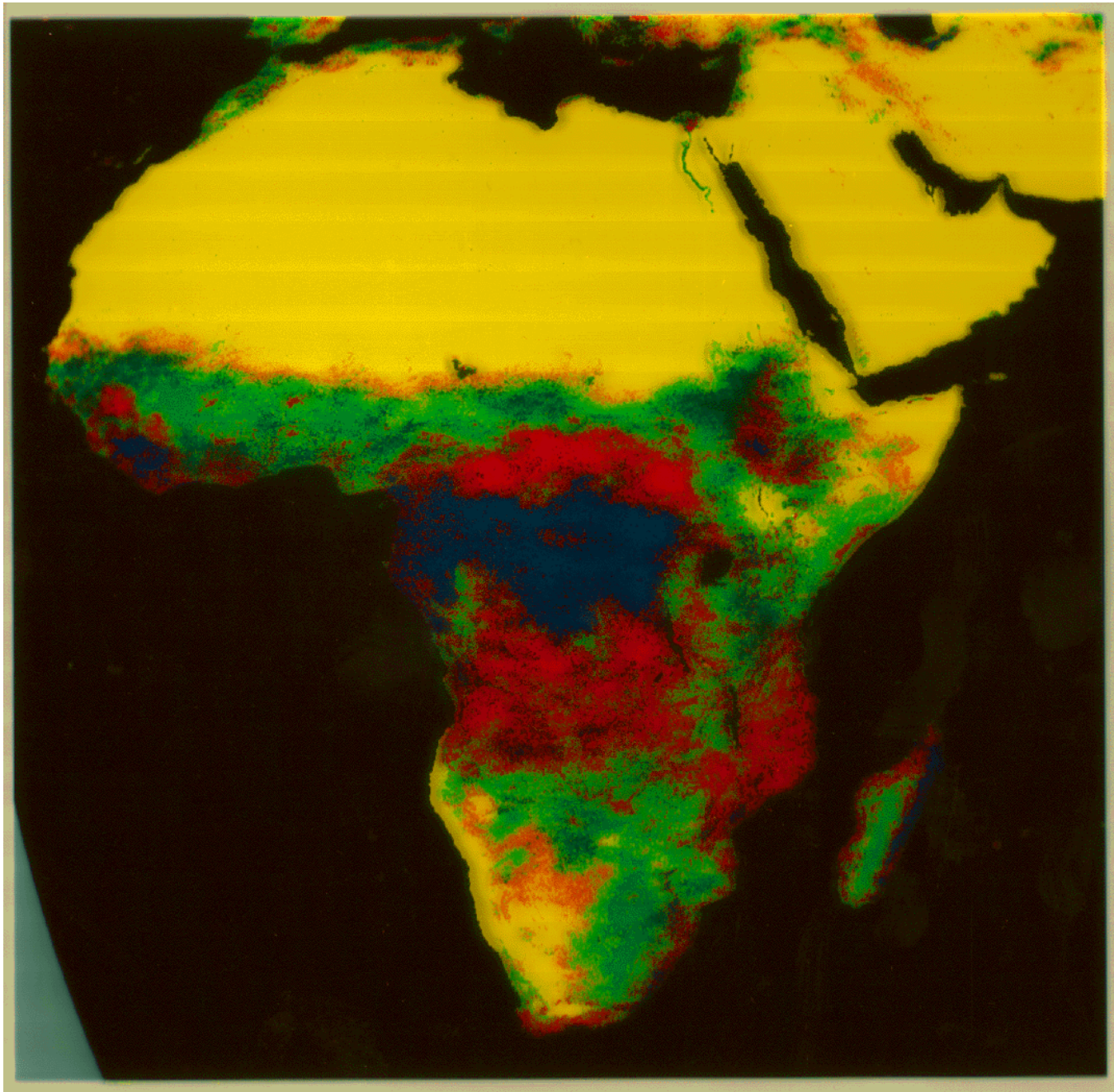
(directional-hemispherical spectral reflectance)

**GLOBAL BIOME CLASSIFICATION COMPATIBLE WITH RADIATIVE TRANSFER**

	Biome 1 Grasses & Cereal Crops	Biome 2 Shrubs	Biome 3 Broadleaf Crops	Biome 4 Savanna	Biome 5 Broadleaf Forests	Biome 6 Needle Forests
Horizontal Heterogeneity (ground cover)	no	low	variable	low (o/s)	yes	yes
Vertical Heterogeneity (leaf optics & LAD)	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Stems/Trunks	no	no	no	o/s	yes	yes
Understorey	no	no	no	biome 1	yes	yes
Foliage Dispersion	minimal clumping	random	regular	minimal clumping (u/s)	clumping	severe clumping
Needle Clumping on Shoots	no	no	no	no	no	yes
Crown Shadowing	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes
Background Type	medium	bright	dark	medium	dark	dark







# VEGETATION INDEX BASED

- simple
- robust
- biome specific
- sun angle specific
- background specific

Figure 5a (Private Communication from Running, 1995)

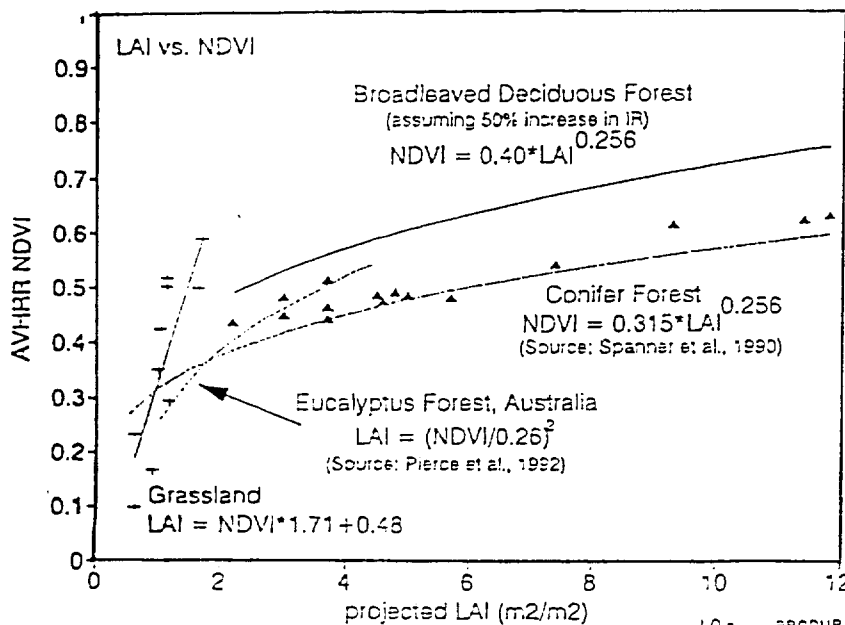
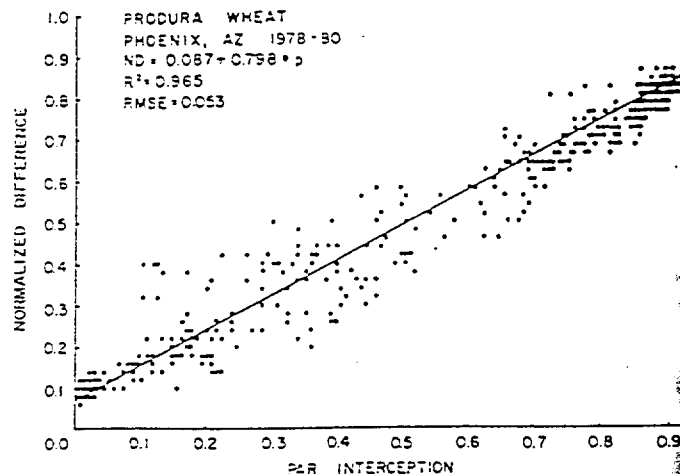


Figure 5b (Asrar et al., 1984)





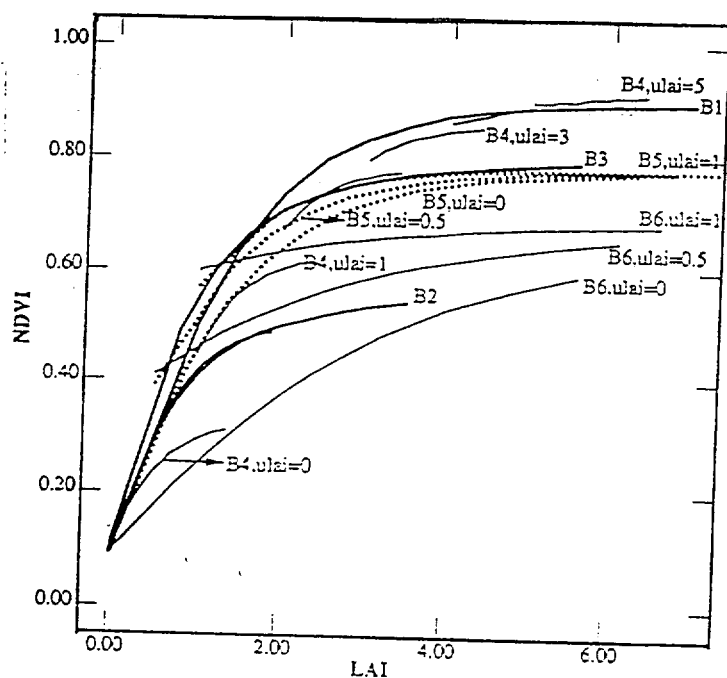


Figure 8a  
(Bn : Biome n, n = 1, 2, ..., 6)  
(ulai : understory LAI)

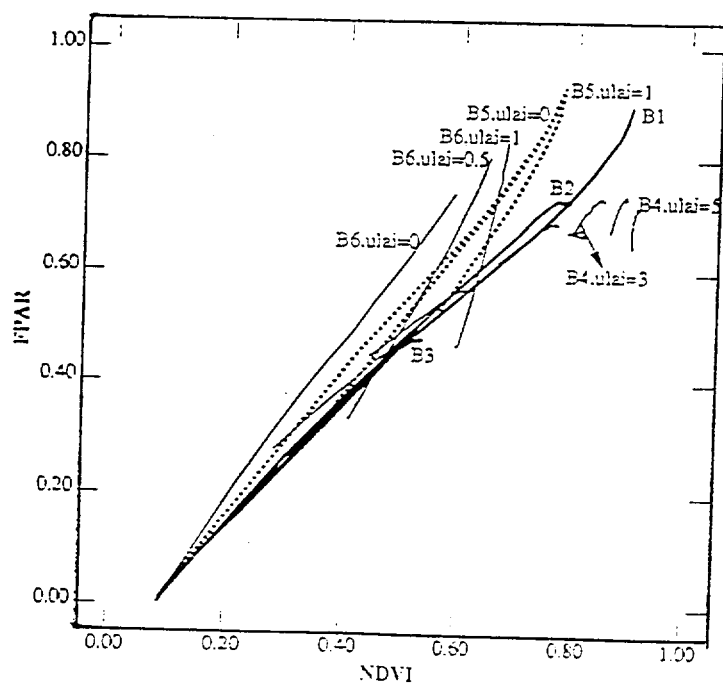
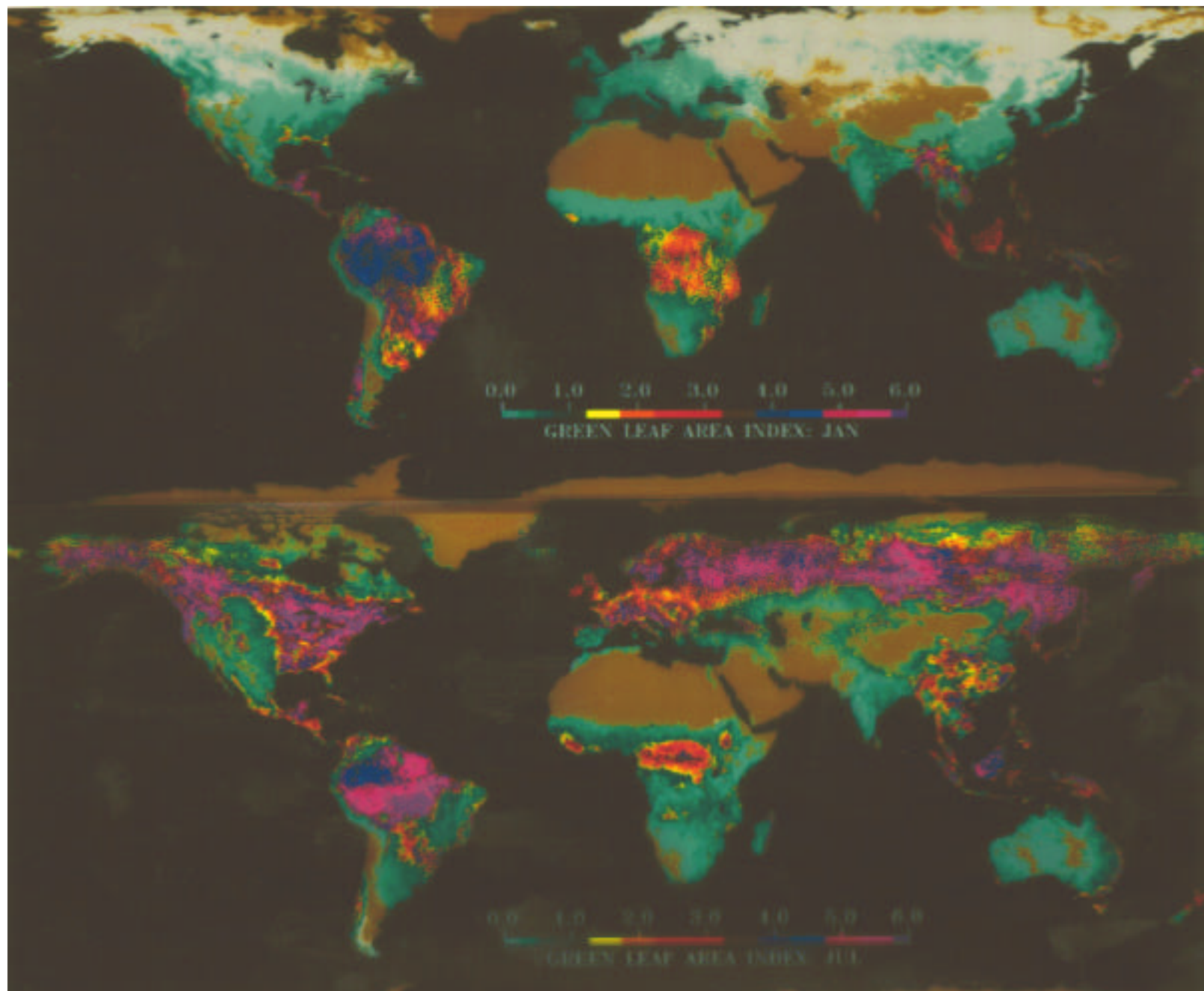
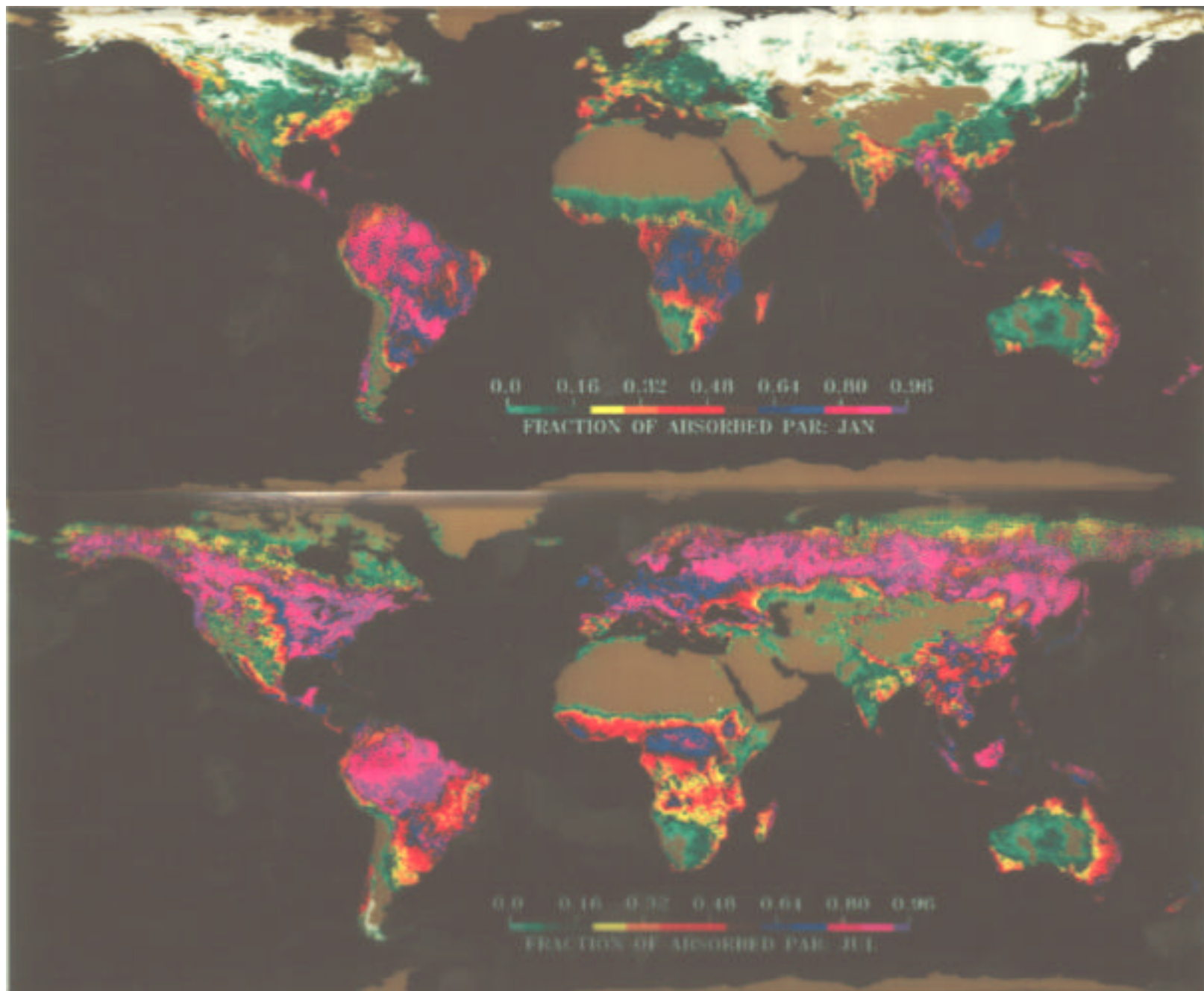


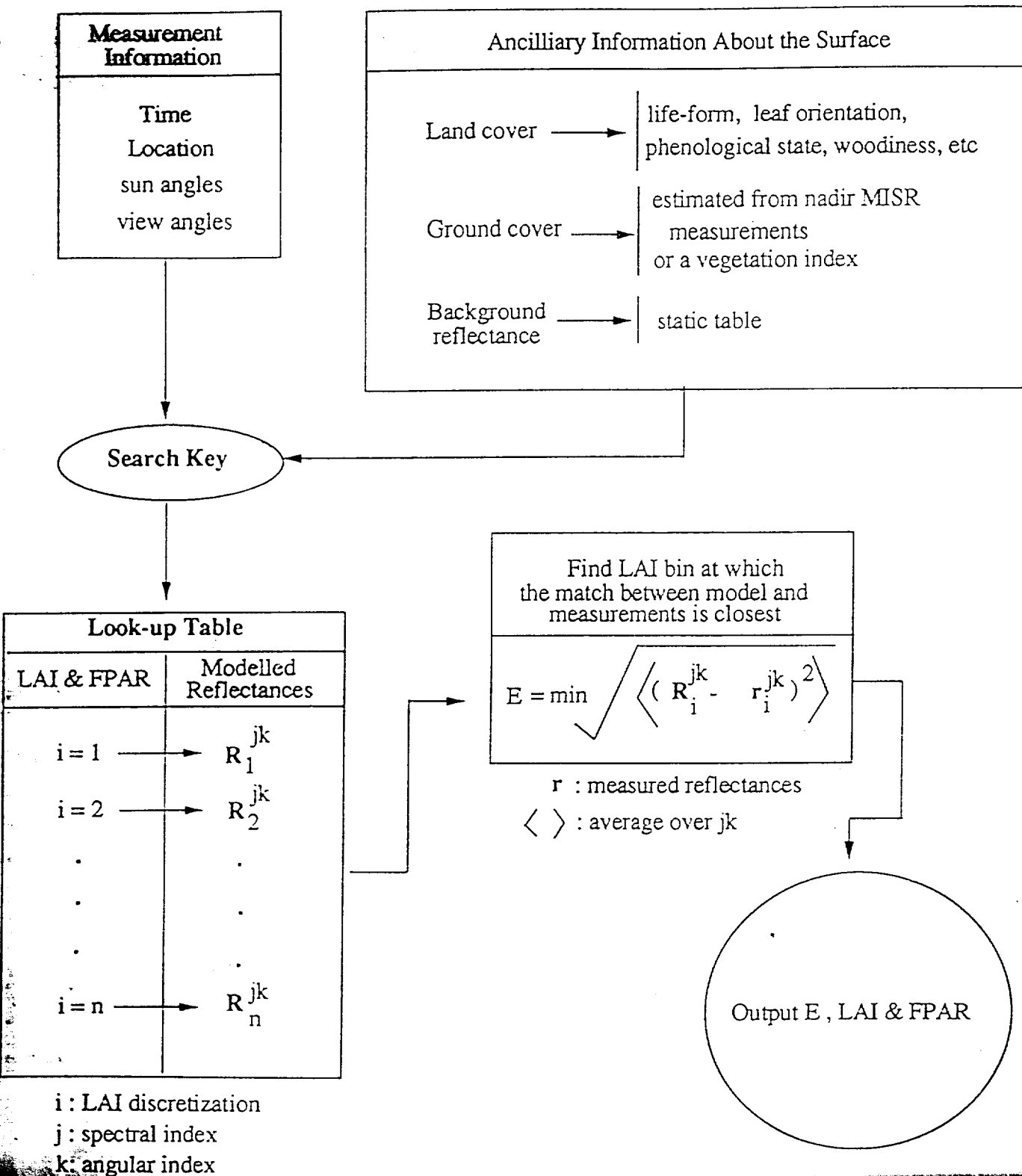
Figure 8b  
(Bn : Biome n, n = 1, 2, ..., 6)  
(ulai : understory LAI)



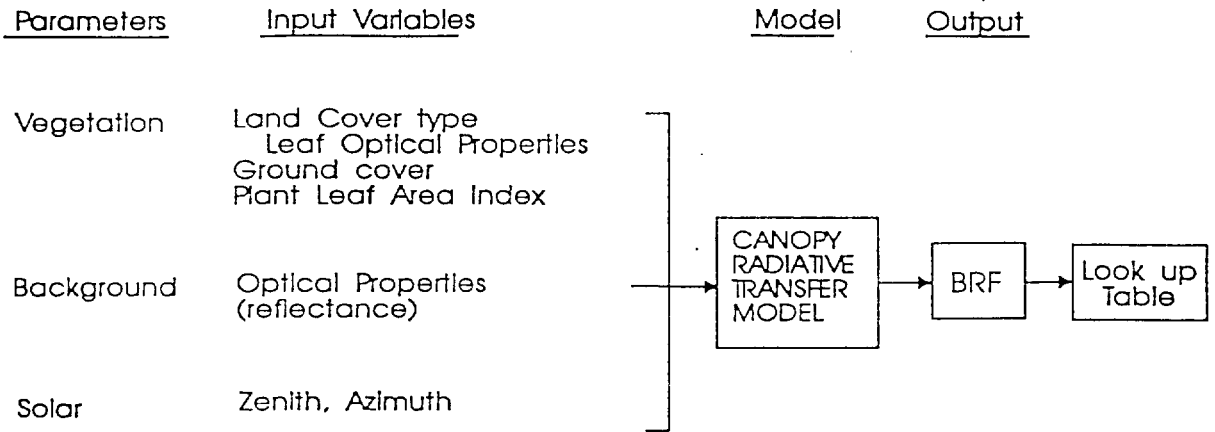


**Figure 12**

**Look-up Table Based Approach to LAI & FPAR Estimation From Remote Observations**



## MODELING OF REMOTE SENSING OBSERVATIONS



Land Cover: Broad leaf, Needle leaf, Grass  
 Leaf Optical Properties: Reflectance, Transmittance  
 Ground Cover: Range: 10-100, Interval: 10%  
 Plant LAI: Range: 1-10, Interval: 2  
 Background: dark (clay, organic, litter), Bright (sand, oxidized soils)  
 Zenith: Range: 0-90, Interval: 10  
 Azimuth: Range: 0-180, Interval: 20

Radiative Transfer model of Myneni et al. 1992  
 BRF: Bi-directional Reflectance Factor  
 VI: Vegetation Index  
 FPAR: Fraction of Absorbed PAR

- back-up & main algorithms
- reflectance based main algorithm
- utilizing spectral and angular variance
- improved land cover classification
- characterization of ground cover
- tie-in with MISR
- physically based method with some estimate of accuracy/error



Version 1 Coding & delivery on schedule (June 1996) UMT

Continued RT model development & validation UMD

LOOK-UP TABLE research issues UMD

- grid interval
- testing at smaller spatial scale (FIFE, BOREAS ...)

Version 2 (mid 1997)

1 KM BIOME TYPE CHARACTERIZATION — UMT/UMD

Demonstrating the feasibility of the Algorithms by developing Prototype LAI/FPAR  
data sets from AVHRR Land Pathfinder 1 data UMT/UMD

MODIS/MISR Synergy Issues UMD

Improved Biome Type Characterization UMT/UMD  
for LAI/FPAR Estimation

→ Post-Launch

ALGORITHM IMPLEMENTATION  
INTERACTIONS WITH SDST  
FIELD STUDIES (Parameterization)  
VALIDATION ACTIVITIES  
(Instrument Team)

UMT

THEORY UMD  
ALGORITHM DEVELOPMENT  
(scientific coding; delivery to UMT)

MODIS/MISR INTEGRATION  
SENSITIVITY & ERROR ANALYSIS  
I. T. Validation Activities